

11-1946

Have Enough Money... What Now?

Wallace E. Ogg
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/farmscience>



Part of the [Agriculture Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ogg, Wallace E. (1946) "Have Enough Money... What Now?," *Iowa Farm Science*: Vol. 1 : No. 5 , Article 5.
Available at: <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/farmscience/vol1/iss5/5>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension and Experiment Station Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa Farm Science by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

HAVE ENOUGH MONEY . . .

PERHAPS YOU have become moderately wealthy during the war. Quite a number of fairly young Corn Belt farmers have. I know several who have a net worth of over \$100,000 today who were wondering if they could keep ahead of the sheriff a few years ago.

You got that way by hard work and good management—but also because the world has been full of destruction and starvation and suffering. Of course you, as an individual, couldn't help it. You were too young when the mistakes that brought on the war were made to do anything about it.

Now you have a pile of money, what are you going to do the rest of your life? You never expected to be this well off, though you did hope to be "secure" in your old age.

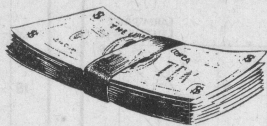
I talked to a fellow the other day in his late thirties who had a net worth of about \$40,000. He was confused by that problem. He was thinking about semi-retirement, that is, selling out and "salting away" the money and taking a part-time job.

Your Goals

You could, of course, try what many farmers did the last time. Now you have one farm paid for you might try to buy another. That furnished most of the farmers who were in your position after the last war a "life goal" that served to keep them busy the rest of their lives. But that wasn't a very satisfactory goal.

There are a number of new goals you might substitute for the one you attained 20 years earlier than you anticipated.

Agriculture for a number of reasons has political power all out of proportion to the number of people engaged in it. For that reason farmer leaders have a great deal to say about public policy. Public policy will have considerable to do in determining how long we can make this peace last. To be really respected as a farm leader a man needs first to be a successful farmer. He must be financially able to devote a good deal of time to



By WALLACE E. OGG

work on public policy at local, state and national levels.

Perhaps you should deliberately reduce your business to a size that would provide just a comfortable living at a peacetime level of prices, and look around to see where you can be useful in public affairs. You don't have to let anyone know about the new goal. Just get rid of your false modesty and accept whatever worthwhile responsibility comes along. You will soon find that you'll have to choose carefully to pick the jobs where you can do the most good.

It'll mean informing yourself on what is good public policy if you're to do a good job. That suggests a starting place. Does your county agricultural extension program and your Smith-Hughes night school include in their programs background information on public issues important to the nation and to agriculture? Ask for it and take an active part as a leader.

Public Responsibility

Much public policy today, whether we like or not, is developed by pressure groups. Belong to and take an active part in a farm organization. If you don't agree with all their policies say so and be ready to serve on policy-forming committees or as an officer.

Like many farmers you may be inclined to be contemptuous of politics. If you believe in democracy you must believe in politics for it is by politics that democracy operates. Political maneuvering by able, conscientious statesmen merits our respect. How about taking an active part in local politics? See to it that good men are available on the ballots starting at the local level. You might run for office yourself. I can think of several Iowa farmers I know whom I'd like to have for congress-

WHAT NOW?

men. Men like that should run for office as a public responsibility.

Of course there are a number of other worthwhile goals. It's easy to neglect to take time to do a good job of raising our children. It's not a simple task but it's terribly important to America. Serving on the local school board is a thankless job but it's important too.

Education and travel for your family can benefit society as well, if you use what you learn. Certainly most farm homes need improving. Another excellent place to spend your energies would be with your church.

Think it over. What are you going to do with your next 20 or 30 years?

Farm Lumber

ALL SIGNS point to a farm building boom—exceeding that of the 1920's—to get under way as soon as labor and materials, chiefly lumber, permit.

But that is still many months away.

Even though lumber production will continue at record and near record levels, it cannot keep pace with demand during the home construction boom. And the veterans' housing program must come first.

Until lumber stocks can be built up in retail yards farmers will be unable to embark on a large scale building boom. And stocks will not be built up while lumber continues to move into consumption as fast as received. However, compared to the war years, farmers will get an increasing amount of lumber and they will have more choice, but the supply will be far less than all farm requirements, at least until well into 1947. This will mean some use of other materials in place of lumber—and further deferment of much farm construction.

—U. S. Forest Service